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Editor
THE COLEOPTERISTS' BULLETIN

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PLAN AND PURPOSE

There is a general feeling among Coleopterists that something should be done to provide closer cooperation in the study of the taxonomy of beetles. The younger workers in the field are particularly handicapped by the lack of some method of knowing what other workers are doing. By maintaining a large correspondence over a period of years one can become familiar with the work being done. The museum workers keep in contact through the requests which come in for loans of material. Other than that, one usually knows nothing about current research until it appears in print in some journal.

It would be a distinct advantage to each worker if he were informed as to the groups currently being revised. The reviser would have more material to work with, and the collector would have his material correctly identified by the authority in the group.

The purpose of this bulletin then, is to further the science of Coleopterology by providing a list of current workers and their specific interests and desires. By this cooperation amongst Coleopterists, both amateur and professional, our knowledge of many groups may be made more complete.

Beginning with this introductory issue then, we are including a list of the current workers who have responded to this idea. In addition, some ecological and collecting notes have been contributed.

As now planned, this bulletin will include lists of determiners, revisers and current workers. Ecological notes, collecting notes, news items, short reviews and notices of locations of collections and types will be welcome additions to the bulletin.

AN APPEAL TO THE READER

With each issue of this bulletin there will be included a form to be filled out and returned immediately to provide material for the following issues. The life of this bulletin depends entirely upon the response of its readers. This is the only source of material. So the reader's cooperation is necessary.

THE AMATEUR AND THE PROFESSIONAL

It may be well at this point to make one thing clear. Some journals state that "amateurish" material is not wanted. An amateur is not necessarily a person who is a novice or who is unscientific. As every taxonomist well knows, the so-called "amateur" has laid much of the very ground work of our knowledge of the taxonomy of insects. So it is not the amateur that should be excluded from publishing in scientific journals, but rather the person who is not serious in his pursuit of the study. It is difficult to know where to set the limits, but it is certainly not between the amateur and the professional.

Ross H. Arnett, Jr.
EDITOR